

21st September, 1944.

B.S. 1944/9A.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS SEPTEMBER, 1944.

C O N T E N T S

PART I PRIMARY & EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

RURAL INDUSTRIES - GENERAL. Seasonal conditions. Increase in 1943/44 in number of persons working permanently on rural holdings.

LIVESTOCK STATISTICS. Large number of sheep and cattle at 31st March, 1944. Good lambing and heavy slaughtering in 1943/44. Wool production.

VEGETABLES. Large increase in areas harvested in 1943/44.

WHEAT. Crop prospects unfavourable.

DAIRYING INDUSTRY. Butter production August, 1944. Scheme to allot individual farm production goals. Commonwealth subsidy for fresh milk.

PART II FINANCE & TRADE.

GENERAL: Rise in price of gold.

COMMONWEALTH ACCOUNTS: Budget, 1944/45. Expenditure August, 1944.

STATE ACCOUNTS: Revenue and Expenditure, 1944.

TRADING BANKS: Assets and liabilities in Australia, July, 1944.

NOTE ISSUE: August, 1944.

REAL ESTATE: Registrations of Transfers and Mortgages, August, 1944.

PART I - PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

Seasonal conditions. Practically no rain fell in N.S.W. during the first half of September, but there were widespread light to moderate showers in the third week. Except in the coastal region, droughty conditions are becoming increasingly acute in the southern half of the State, where pastures are poor and water supplies scanty. In central and northern sections there has been good growth of feed but further rain is needed to assure summer pastures.

The following index shows that in the eight months Jan./Aug. rainfall was above normal only in May in wheat districts, in May and August in sheep districts, and in January July and August in dairying districts. The August Index Numbers were low in southern districts; viz., sheep 42, wheat 42. The higher state averages resulted from good rainfall in northern and central sections, for which the Indexes were: Northern - sheep 233, wheat 230; Central - sheep 152, wheat 127.

RAINFALL INDEX - N.S.W.

Weighted average ratio of actual to normal rainfall.
Normal rainfall each month = 100.

Month	Sheep	Wheat Districts	Dairying (Coastal.) Districts
1944 - Jan.	45	28	178
Feb.	58	32	37
Mar.	41	49	50
Apr.	61	80	28
May	127	136	59
June	16	14	57
July	70	53	148
Aug.	142	90	234

Rural Labour. Between 1939 and March 1944 the total number of males working permanently and temporarily on rural holdings in New South Wales decreased from approximately 166,000 to 113,000 - that is, by 53,000 or 31 per cent. Over the same period the number of females working permanently and temporarily on rural holdings increased from approximately 8,000 to 17,000. These numbers include permanent and casual workers engaged full time whether as owners, lessees, sharefarmers, relatives assisting, or wage earners. For 1939 the figures are partly estimated. The numbers, however, do not fully reflect the decrease in effective rural labour since much of the decrease consists of men of military age who have been replaced by aged men, youths, women and girls.

Particulars of persons engaged permanently fully time on rural holdings are shown in the following table. The number of males decreased in each year (by 28,400 in all) from March 1939 to 1943, then increased by 2,900 in 1943/44. There was an increase of 9,100 in the number of women to March, 1943, and a decline of nearly 800 in 1943-44.

N.S.W. - PERSONS WORKING PERMANENTLY ON RURAL HOLDING. (Excludes Casual & Seasonal Workers)

March	Owners, Lessees, Sharefarmers	Relatives	Employees	Total	Increase or Decrease
		Males			
1939	68,009	17,555	40,777	126,341	...
1943	59,260	12,172	26,471	97,903	(-) 28,438
1944	64,860	12,484	23,476	100,820	(+) 2,917
		Females			
1939	872	5,442	745	7,059	...
1943	2,304	10,420	3,438	16,162	(+) 9,103
1944	2,174	10,554	2,653	15,381	(-) 781

LIVESTOCK STATISTICS.

Sheep. The number of sheep in N.S.W. at 31st March, 1944 was 56.8 m. the highest since 1894. Lambs marked (15 m.) in 1943-44 exceeded the number in the previous year by 1.4 m. The slaughtering of sheep and lambs (9.5 m.) was the heaviest on record.

SHEEP IN N.S.W.
(In thousands)

Year ended 31st March	Number of sheep at 31st March.	Lambing			Sheep & lambs slaughtered
		Ewes Mated	Lambs marked	% Lambing	
1939	48,877	17,671	9,286	52.5	6,311
1940	54,372	22,232	15,674	70.5	6,887
1941	55,568	21,878	14,014	64.0	8,167
1942	56,737	22,264	14,616	65.7	8,115
1943	56,043	21,577	13,627	63.1	9,299
1944	56,837	22,188	15,068	67.9	9,476

WOOL PRODUCTION: The production of wool in 1943-44 was 537.4 m. lb. which was approximately 10 m. lb. less than the record established in 1941-42. The average clip for grown sheep shorn was 9.4 lb. per head and for lambs shorn 3 lb. per head. The over-all average for sheep and lambs was 8.3 lb. The number of sheep and lambs shorn in 1943-44 was 57,318,000 - a decline of 1,200,000 as compared with the high number in 1941-42.

Statistics for 1943-44 and preceding years are as follow:-

Season	Sheep and Lambs shorn.	Average Clip (a) (Greasy)	Weight of Wool Produced (as in the grease).				
			Shorn and Crutched.	Dead.	Fell- mongered	Exported on Skins	Total Production.
	thousands	lb.	Thousand lb.				
1935-36	55,805	7.7	429,701	2,358	24,176	16,350	472,585
1936-37	55,485	8.3	459,650	1,423	24,303	18,240	503,616
1937-38	54,673	8.2	447,695	1,771	23,951	21,610	495,027
1938-39	51,530	7.6	391,627	2,427	25,677	17,410	437,141
1939-40	54,637	9.1	497,356	1,095	(b)	47,822	546,273
1940-41	57,704	8.4	483,992	1,326	(b)	51,589	536,907
1941-42	58,537	8.5	497,446	1,125	(b)	48,429	547,000
1942-43	57,654	7.8	448,968	1,278	(b)	47,292	497,538
1943-44	57,318	8.6	490,331	883	(b)	46,196	537,410

(a) Includes cruttcings. (b) Includes fellmongered and exported on skins.

Cattle. At 31st March, 1944, there were 3.1 cattle in N.S.W. An increase of 374,000 from 1941 was due to the growth of beef herds. The number of cows in registered dairies declined by 12,000 in 1943/44 and 26,000 since 1939; there was a considerably greater decline in the number of cows being milked as at 31st March.

CATTLE IN N.S.W.
(In thousands)

At 31st March.	Cows in Registered Dairies.				Other Cattle	Total Cattle
	Being Milked	Dry	Heifers (1 year & over)	Total		
1939	691	196	182	1,069	1,743	2,812
1940	659	224	186	1,069	1,694	2,763
1941	668	193	194	1,055	1,714	2,769
1942	651	199	205	1,055	1,823	2,878
1943	639	205	211	1,055	1,976	3,031
1944	610	227	206	1,043	2,100	3,143

The number of registered dairies in N.S.W. decreased from 20,956 in 1938/39 to 20,123 in 1942/43 and 19,541 in 1943-44 - a total decrease of 1415.

Pigs in N.S.W. numbered (at 31st March) 377,000 in 1939, 507,700 in 1941, 487,000 in 1943 and 561,300 in 1944. The numbers slaughtered increased from 553,000 in 1938-39, to 738,000 in 1942, and declined to 669,000 in 1943 and 503,000 in 1944 (last two are calendar years).

Vegetables.

The area of vegetables harvested on farms in Australia for human consumption, 418,354 acres, in 1943-44 was 86,189 acres (26%) more than in 1942-43 and 179,428 acres (75%) more than in 1941-42. The 1941-42 acreage was little in advance of pre-war.

The main increases between 1941-42 and 1943-44 were in Victoria (65,357 to 117,358 acres increase 80%), Tasmania (54,233 to 104,944 acres - 94%), N.S.W. (62,947 to 99,371 acres - 58%) Queensland (34,870 to 58,925 acres - 69%).

Victoria grows the largest acreage of vegetables and in 1943-44 Tasmania displaced N.S.W. as the State with the second largest acreage.

Potatoes, the most important crop, increased by 81,878 acres or 83% between 1941/42 and 1943-44 and in the latter year represented 43% of the total vegetable acreage. Victoria (66,000 acres) and Tasmania (60,000 acres) were the principal potato growing States.

Green peas ranked second in acreage in 1943-44 and in N.S.W. the area harvested was greater than that of potatoes and was 65% of the Australian total.

The acreage of blue peas (83% in Tasmania) was little less than green peas.

VEGETABLES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION GROWN ON FARMS.

Areas Harvested - acres.

Vegetable	N.S.W.			Australia.		
	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
Potatoes	17,685	24,488	26,866	99,324	140,209	181,202
Peas - Green	17,548	20,205	29,677	28,693	32,710	45,943
Blue	13	798	954	18,709	33,439	44,616
Beans - French	5,388	6,014	6,747	11,693	13,677	16,114
Navy	1,808	2,792	5,669	2,704	6,219	8,065
Cabbages	1,939	2,452	2,847	6,421	9,038	10,897
Cauliflower	1,141	1,429	1,411	2,907	5,217	5,394
Lettuce	784	887	892	2,618	2,835	3,265
Tomatoes	3,306	3,847	5,520	13,419	16,868	21,868
Carrots	1,539	1,923	3,499	4,258	5,639	10,495
Parsnips	419	517	563	1,460	1,841	2,006
Onions	786	1,096	710	7,499	9,716	9,550
Beetroot	519	669	803	1,991	2,996	3,602
Turnips-Swede	1,701	2,823	2,300	8,064	12,108	8,771
Pumpkins	4,791	6,762	4,805	20,280	27,324	25,908
Marrow & Squash	454	671	461	765	1,164	1,341
Other	3,126	3,684	5,647	8,121	11,165	19,317
Total	62,947	81,057	99,371	238,926	332,165	418,354

The total area sown or planted to vegetables for human consumption in 1943-44 was 454,394 acres in Australia and 115,924 acres in N.S.W. Of these areas, 36,040 acres (8%) and 16,553 acres (14%) respectively, failed entirely.

WHEAT.

In the South-western Slopes and Riverina, which usually produce about half the State wheat harvest, protracted dry weather has seriously impaired growth of crops, and for many the outlook is precarious. Crops have improved in the Central West, following rainfall in August, but growth is still backward. Only in Northern districts, comprising about one-quarter of the State wheat acreage, are good yields expected.

DAIRY INDUSTRY.

Production of butter (3.1 m.lb.) in August, 1944, though about 0.5 m. lb. above June and July, was the smallest quantity in August since 1923-24. Pastures are reported to be making excellent growth especially on the North-Coast and the immediate outlook is favourable.

For the better organisation of production, the Dept. of Agriculture has distributed the 1944/45 State production goal for butter, cheese and preserved milk products amongst dairy factories. The factory quotas, in turn, are being allocated to suppliers, thus creating individual farm production goals.

BUTTER PRODUCED - N.S.W. FACTORIES.
000,000 lb.

Period	Average '34-'36.	1939.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Year ended June	134.2	113.8	103.7	85.1	93.8	87.9
February	14.4	10.8	12.8	8.3	10.2	10.2
March	14.7	12.1	11.7	10.1	8.7	8.4
April	11.5	11.9	8.7	8.6	6.1	5.2
May	8.2	10.5	6.8	6.8	4.8	3.9
June	5.9	7.7	5.2	5.5	3.7	2.6
July	5.1	6.0	4.6	5.2	3.3	2.5
August	5.6	6.4	4.6	5.3	3.3	3.1 *

* Subject to revision.

A final basis of Commonwealth subsidy to producers of fresh milk in the Sydney Milk Board Zone has been announced following an investigation into costs of production. The subsidy (per gallon) is 3d. in February, 4½d. in the six months March to August, and 3d. in September. No subsidy will be paid in the four months October to January. Under the temporary subsidy plan announced in May (see B.S.1944/5A) producers were paid (per gallon) 2½d. by the Commonwealth and 1d. by the State. These payments are to be supplemented by a further payment of 1d. a gallon of milk in respect of the period 15th April to 31st August.

PART II - FINANCE, TRADE, ETC.

The price of gold in Australia was raised 2s. to £10.12s. per oz. fine on 16th September. This follows a recent increase of 1s. oz. fine on 27th June last. The prewar price was £9.4s.11d. (July 1939) and the highest war-time price was £10.14s. from October, 1940 to 1941.

COMMONWEALTH BUDGET (1944-45).

The Budget provides for a total expenditure of £653 m. (£33 m. less than last year) and a revenue of £325 m. (increase £16 m.). The balance (£328 m.) to be financed by loans, internal funds and Treasury Bills therefor shows a reduction of £49 m.

Main items in the Budget are shown below. An increase of £16 m. to £200 m. in the yield of income tax is expected to be obtained mostly from the collection of arrears, aided by additional receipts resulting from the changeover to "pay-as-you-earn". Provision is made for a half-year's expenditure on new social services; viz, unemployment relief and sickness benefits £8 m. and pharmaceutical benefits £1.

COMMONWEALTH REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	<u>1942-43.</u>	<u>1943-44</u>	<u>Estimate</u> <u>1944-5.</u>	<u>Comparison</u> <u>1944-1945</u>
	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.
<u>Revenue -</u>				
Income Tax	141.0	183.8	200.0	(+) 16.2
Customs & Excise	64.9	67.3	67.0	(-) .3
Sales Tax	28.8	27.9	27.5	(-) .4
Pay-roll Tax	10.5	10.9	11.0	(+) .1
Entertainments Tax	3.0	4.7	5.0	(+) .3
Other	9.0	9.1	9.0	(-) .1
Total Taxes	257.2	303.7	319.5	(+) 15.8
Less Reimbursed to States	27.0	32.8	33.5	(+) .7
Net Taxes	230.2	270.9	286.0	(+) 15.1
Business Undertakings	28.0	30.3	31.2	(+) .9
Other	9.3	8.2	8.3	(+) .1
Total Revenue	267.5	309.4	325.5	(+) 16.1
<u>Expenditure -</u>				
<u>War -</u>				
Interest on Debt	11.2	18.8	27.4	(+) 8.6
Sinking Fund	3.9	6.0	7.9	(+) 1.9
Prices Stabilisation	...	7.0	12.0	(+) 5.0
Assistance to Primary Producers	3.1	12.3	14.3	(+) 2.0
War Pensions	.7	1.7	2.7	(+) 1.0
Other	542.8	498.6	440.7	(-) 57.9
Total War	561.7	544.4	505.0	(-) 39.4
<u>Non-war -</u>				
Social Services	37.6	39.2	48.5	(+) 9.3
Other	71.0	77.4	81.0	(+) 3.6
Total non-war	108.6	116.6	129.5	(+) 12.9
Unexpended Contribution to National Welfare Fund.	...	25.5	18.4	(-) 7.1
Total Expenditure	670.3	686.5	652.9	(-) 33.6

The excess of expenditure over revenue was financed from the following sources -

	<u>1942-43</u>	<u>1943-44</u>	<u>Estimate</u> <u>1944-45</u>
	£m.	£m.	£m.
Internal Balances	0	43	} 328
Loans	215	265	
Bank Credit	<u>179</u>	<u>69</u>	
	<u>402</u>	<u>377</u>	

Commonwealth expenditure (£46.8 m.) in the month and (£90.2 m.) in the two months ended August, 1944, were respectively £9.3 m. and £16.3 m. less than in the corresponding periods last year. The decrease was in war expenditure; non-war services increased slightly.

COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE.

(Excluding income tax reimbursed to States).
£ millions.

Service.	Month of August.		Two months ended August.		
	1943.	1944.	1943.	1944	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).
War (1939) from -					
Revenue	12.5	17.7	24.3	33.2	(+) 8.6
Loans	34.8	19.9	63.1	37.9	(-) 25.2
Total War	47.3	37.6	87.7	71.1	(-) 16.6
Other Revenue Services	0.8	9.2	18.8	19.1	(+) 0.3
Total, All Services	56.1	46.8	106.5	90.2	(-) 16.3

STATE ACCOUNTS.

The combined accounts for the two months ended August, 1944, show little change as compared with last year.

Decreases in revenue (£294,000) and expenditure (£161,000) of the Business Undertakings and Main Roads Funds were partly offset by increases in Consolidated Revenue Fund.

There was a small improvement, £44,000, in the net balance.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS.

Two months ended August.

Accounts	1943-44	1944-45	Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
	£000	£000	£000
Revenue - Consolidated Fund	3,220	3,409	(+) 189
Business Undertakings	6,560	6,352	(-) 208
Main Roads	439	353	(-) 86
Total	10,219	10,114	(-) 105
Expenditure - Consolidated Fund	5,839	5,851	(+) 12
Business Undertakings	5,038	4,908	(-) 130
Main Roads	422	391	(-) 31
Total	11,299	11,150	(-) 149
Excess of Expenditure	1,080	1,036	(-) 44

of Railways, Trams & Buses, Road Transport and Traffic Fund, and Sydney Harbour.

PRIVATE TRADING BANKS.

In July, 1944, deposits declined by £6.3 m. to £528.2 m., making a total decline of £16.1 m. from the year's peak in April. Last year the decline (March to June) was only £8.1 m.

Advances were practically stationary from June to July, but investments in Government Securities increased by £1.9 m. following the increases of £3.5 m. in May and £5.3 m. in June.

NINE TRADING BANKS - AUSTRALIA.

Liabilities and Assets within Australia.
£ million.

Av. of Weekly Figures	Deposits.			Coin, Notes, etc. & Cash at C'wealth Bank.	Treas- ury Bills.	Govt. & Municipal Securit- ies.	Special Wartime Deposits with C'wealth Bank.	Advances Discount etc.
	Bearing Interest (Fixed)	Not Bearing Interest (Current)	Total					
1939-June	200.9	117.1	318.0	28.6	23.9	22.1	-	291.7
1940 "	210.3	135.1	345.4	31.1	38.3	43.7	-	289.9
1941 "	204.9	155.1	360.0	33.3	36.1	51.9	-	283.7
1942 "	192.0	195.9	387.9	40.4	39.6	56.3	36.4	268.3
1943 "	197.4	256.1	453.5	33.4	50.8	75.7	102.9	246.0
1944 "	219.9	314.6	534.5	38.0	55.4	89.1	182.8	221.8
1943-Apr.	197.3	261.6	458.9	30.2	77.6	69.0	95.9	242.4
May	196.3	257.8	454.1	33.3	55.3	74.1	102.0	245.8
June	197.4	256.1	453.5	33.4	50.8	75.7	102.9	246.0
July	203.2	248.1	451.3	35.2	47.4	75.6	103.3	249.6
1944-Apr.	217.7	326.6	544.3	40.6	74.2	80.3	172.4	227.6
May	217.7	318.8	536.5	37.1	63.7	83.8	180.2	225.2
June	219.9	314.6	534.5	38.0	55.4	89.1	182.8	221.8
July	220.3	307.9	528.2	35.0	51.7	91.0	182.7	221.4

NOTE ISSUE.

In the three weeks ended 21st August, 1944, there was a further increase of £4.1 m. to £176.3 m. in the public holdings of Australian notes. The increase in the past year amounted to £48.8 m. and since August, 1939, to £145 m. - more than fivefold.

AUSTRALIAN NOTES HELD BY PUBLIC.

	August 1939	August 1941	August 1942	August 1943	1944			
					May	June	July	August 21
£ millions	35.0	56.5	94.1	131.6	168.6	174.3	176.3	180.4

REAL ESTATE.

Following the comparatively high registrations of real estate transfers in June and July, there was a further increase to £2.4 m. in August - the highest figure in any month since April, 1942. Total registrations (£12.4 m.) in the eight months Jan./Aug., 1944, exceed last year's figure by £1.1 m. but are 45% below 1939.

Mortgages also were the highest since April, 1942; the total for eight months is 73% less than in 1939.

Agents report strong demand for city and suburban factory sites and steadily increasing enquiry for home sites. Buyers out number sellers.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS, N.S.W.

Thousand £								
Month	Transfers Registered				Mortgages (Incl. Renewals)			
	1939.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1939.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Mar.	3,623	2,083	1,550	1,552	2,225	996	503	663
Apr.	2,245	2,276	1,517	931	2,025	891	536	302
May	3,090	1,154	1,185	1,307	2,112	526	381	495
June	2,613	1,266	1,358	1,809	1,658	599	400	687
July	2,919	1,540	1,783	1,992	1,950	622	399	542
Aug.	3,068	1,671	1,379	2,241	2,770	451	450	723
Jan./Aug.	22,445	15,277	11,292	12,428	16,172	5,976	3,654	4,406